Contemporary Issues in Religious Ed

Description

This is a directed reading/seminar collaboration course. Students individually choose from a short list of pressing religious education challenges and read the bibliography associated with that challenge (lists are available on the course website: http://www2.luthersem.edu/mhess/web/EL3532.html). They then meet in plenary session at predetermined times to teach each other what they have learned about a specific challenge and seek insight from each other in meeting the identified challenge. This course may be taken more than once for credit.

Note: Education I is a prerequisite for all of the Education II core electives. You must have either taken EL1515 or had it waived through the competency process to register for this class.

This class will meet January 10-14, 2011, from 12:30 pm to 4 pm daily in GH102.

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Course Objectives

•To develop an awareness of, and develop responses to, a pressing issue in religious education
•To practice developing individual learning goals, and seeking appropriate resources to meet them
•To provide a context in which students develop and nurture respect for the diverse ways in which adults learn
•To provide a context in which students critically reflect upon educational leadership, and their own role in facilitating such
•To nurture a learning community in which students can engage and reflect upon their own teaching and learning practices
•To nurture leadership in education for communities of faith more broadly

Required texts

Students should have read at least one of the introductory texts in religious education that are used in EL1515 at Luther Seminary: *The Church as Learning Community*, *Fashion Me a People*, or *Teaching the Faith: Forming the Faithful*. In addition students need to choose one of the "pressing issues" bibliographies available on the course website (http://www2.luthersem.edu/mhess/web/EL3532.html), and read through the texts on their chosen bibliography prior to the weeklong seminar. If you are interested in a topic for which there is not a bibliography, you may prepare such a bibliography in consultation with the professor and use it for your reading.

Assignments

Choose one of the bibliographies and complete the reading for it prior to **January 10th**.

Participate fully in the week long seminar (January 10-14), preparing at least one major presentation on your topic that you will share with the class.

Review where you stand currently in relation to completing the Luther Seminary Educational Leadership competencies. Choose one, or at most two, of the competencies for which you desire further growth, and which you believe the ideas and practices of the seminar engage. The competency you choose may be related to the pressing issue you've chosen to read about, or it may grow out of ideas and practices you encountered during the week long seminar. Figure out a way to further integrate the readings, practices, and the seminar of this class through some form of demonstration of that competency. For instance, you might write a 5-7 page reflection paper based on what you've learned about a specific issue, or develop a learning unit for a specific context, or design the outline of a retreat for a youth group, or participate in further training of some sort, etc.. This demonstration is due to Mary Hess by February 1st. When you hand the demonstration in, please include a brief description (no more than 250 words, please!) of where you are in relation to the EL competencies and how you believe this demonstration helped you to work on one of them.

If you would like to review the portfolio process, or you have not previously been a student at Luther, you can find specific instructions on the portfolio learning process in educational leadership at Luther (including the EL competencies list) at (http://www.luthersem.edu/mhess/web/Portfolio.html).

Special needs

If you have any special learning needs that I should accommodate, please let me know as early in the term as possible.